

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /067 W  
-----029912 062050Z /75

R 060815Z JUL 78  
FM AMCONSUL BREMEN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2660  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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BRUSSELS FOR EMBASSY AND USEC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, ECIN, GW  
SUBJECT: KOSCHNICK ANNOUNCES BONN'S BREAK WITH COMMITMENT  
TO PRINCIPLE OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNION

1. UNDER A FRONT PAGE BANNER HEADLINE "BONN BREAKS WITH OLD  
EUROPE-CONCEPT", BREMEN WESER KURIER OF JULY 5 CARRIED REPORT  
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OF PRESS CONFERENCE HELD ON AFTERNOON JULY 4 BY BREMEN  
BUERGERMEISTER AND SPD NATIONAL VICE CHAIRMAN, HANS KOSCHNICK,  
AT WHICH THE MAYOR REPORTEDLY ASSERTED THAT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES IN THE DIRECTION OF ULTIMATE  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNION IS REGARDED BY THE BONN GOVERNMENT  
AS "AN ASPIRATION THAT IS NO LONGER DESIRABLE". REPORTEDLY,  
ACCORDING TO KOSCHNICK, A PROCESS OF RETHINKING (UMDENKUNGS-

PROZESS) HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE BOTH IN THE FEDERAL CABINET AND IN THE THREE MAJOR DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. ACCORDING TO KOSCHNICK, THERE IS MOUNTING REALIZATION THAT THE FORMATION OF A POLITICALLY UNIFIED WEST EUROPE WILL BRING IN ITS TRAIN A SIMILAR DEVELOPMENT IN THE EAST BLOC, A DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD PERFORCE OCCUR WITHOUT ANY CONSIDERATION FOR THE PREVAILING NATIONAL RESERVATIONS IN THIS REGARD (IN THE EAST). "WE CANNOT HAVE ANY INTEREST IN A FURTHER CEMENTING OF THE DIVISION OF OUR CONTINENT", KOSCHNICK IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID. HE IS SAID TO HAVE INVOKED THE SPIRIT OF DEGAULLE AND THE IDEA OF A "EUROPE OF FATHERLANDS" IN SUPPORT OF THIS REVISED FRG VIEW OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL PROGRESS.

2. HAVING EXPRESSED THESE THOUGHTS, KOSCHNICK IS REPORTED TO HAVE REAFFIRMED THE FRG'S CONTINUED INTEREST IN CLOSE COOPERATION AMONG EEC MEMBERS IN THE SPHERES OF HUMAN, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS. HE FORECAST A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD AT THE FORTHCOMING EEC SUMMIT IN THE DIRECTION OF A MONETARY UNION. HE ASSERTED THAT THE FRG WAS PREPARED TO MAKE CERTAIN ADVANCE CONCESSIONS TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL. FURTHER, HE EXPECTED A UNIFIED POSITION OF THE NINE AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN BONN LATER THIS MONTH. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION RE MEETING SOME OF THE WISHES OF THE US FOR STIMULATING THE WORLD ECONOMY, KOSCHNICK IS SAID TO HAVE STATED THAT, MEASURED BY WORLD STANDARDS, THE FRG IS IN NO POSITION TO ASSUME THE "LOCOMOTIVE FUNCTION". BESIDES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WASHINGTON IS WELL AWARE THAT IT IS FIRST THE DUTY OF THE US TO LOWER ITS OIL CONSUMPTION AND RAW MATERIALS IMPORTS AND TO REACH A PAYMENTS BALANCE. "WHEN THE AMERICANS WILL ACHIEVE THESE GOALS AND WHEN THE INFLATIONARY IMPULSES EMANATING FROM THEM ARE RESTRAINED, THEN WE WILL BE PREPARED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS (IHNEN ENTGEGENKOMMEN)", KOSCHNICK IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID.

3. COMMENT: KOSCHNICK HELD THE PRESS CONFERENCE IN HIS ROLE AS THE HOST OF THE EEC SUMMIT IN BREMEN. THIS TOP RANKING SPD POLITICIAN RETURNED A FEW DAYS AGO FROM A THREE-DAY VISIT TO PARIS, WHERE HE HAD MET WITH FRENCH LEADERS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING. PRE-SUMMIT BREMEN MAY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED THE RIGHT LOCALE AND KOSCHNICK MAY HAVE BEEN THE DESIGNATED MOUTHPIECE FOR BONN TO FLOAT THE FRG'S NEWLY-BORN MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF A EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNTION. APPARENTLY KOSCHNICK'S COMMENTS APPEARED STARTINGLY DIFFERENT TO THE EDITORS OF THE WESER KURIER, ON THE BACKGROUND OF BONN'S PAST "CATECHISMIC" COMMITMENT TO THE EVENTUAL GOAL EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNION, TO GIVE THEM THE PLAY THEY DID. THIS PRECURSOR OF AN APPARENT CONVERSAION BY THE FRG TO THE GAULLIST IDEA OF A "EUROPE OF FATHERLANDS" MAY

LEND SOME CREDENCE TO THE RECENT SPECULATIONS OF A CLOSE ORCHESTRATION BY BONN AND PARIS OF THEIR POLICIES, WHICH COULD BE SUBSUMED BY THE LABEL "BONN-PARIS AXIS". WHILE ARTICULATED BY A PERSON WITH NO GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN BONN, KOSCHNICK'S COMMENTS NEVERTHELESS CARRY CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT BY VIRTUE OF HIS PARTY-POLITICAL POSITION AND HIS CONSIDERABLE SOPHISTICATION AS A POLITICIAN. WE HAVE CONFIRMED THE REPORT WITH THE RESPONSIBLE EDITORS OF THE WESER KURIER, WHO SHARED OUR PUZZLEMENT AT THE DPA'S FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF KOSCHNICK'S REMARKS AND TO CARRY THE STORY IN ITS WIRE SERVICE. SCHIFFMAN

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